

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

5081

ADMINISTRATIVELY
CONFIDENTIAL

ACTION
July 28, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM:

Robert Gates *RG*

SUBJECT:

Visit of Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, Leader of
the British Conservative Party

With the memorandum at Tab B, the Department of State informs the NSC that Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, leader of the Tory Opposition in Britain, will make her first visit to the United States in that capacity in September. State also advises that Mrs. Thatcher has asked to meet with both the President and the Vice President during her visit. The Department endorses the request as being in keeping with our close relations with the British.

I concur that an office call by Mrs. Thatcher on the President would be appropriate and desirable. It would continue the longstanding practice of Presidential meetings with British Opposition leaders -- including only recently both Harold Wilson and Edward Heath -- and at a time of political and economic uncertainty in Britain would help maintain good relations with both major British political parties. Should the President agree to meet with Mrs. Thatcher, however, I do not believe an appointment with the Vice President is necessary.

If you agree, the schedule proposal for your signature to the President at Tab A would recommend that he approve an office call for Margaret Thatcher during the period September 17-21, 1975.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the schedule proposal at Tab A.

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BP

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL
Date: August 20, 1975
FROM: Henry A. Kissinger
VIA: Warren S. Rustand

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MEETING: Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, Leader of the British Conservative Party

DATE: September 17-21, 1975

PURPOSE: To become acquainted with Mrs. Thatcher and to review US-UK and US-European issues of mutual interest.

FORMAT: -- The Oval Office
-- Mrs. Margaret Thatcher and Henry A. Kissinger
-- 30 minutes

CABINET PARTICIPATION: Secretary of State

SPEECH MATERIAL: Talking Points will be prepared by the NSC.

PRESS COVERAGE: The meeting will be announced and there will be a press photo session at the beginning of your talks.

STAFF: Henry A. Kissinger

RECOMMEND: Henry A. Kissinger

OPPOSED: None

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: None

BACKGROUND: Margaret Thatcher, leader of the Conservative Party in Britain, will make her first visit to the United States in that capacity during mid-September. She will be in Washington September 17-21 and will also visit New York and Chicago.

Mrs. Thatcher has asked to meet with you during her visit. A meeting would be consistent with our close relations with the British and the longstanding

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practice of Presidential meetings with leaders of the Opposition -- such as your meeting with Edward Heath last September. The meeting would provide you an opportunity to become acquainted with Mrs. Thatcher and, at a time of political and economic uncertainty in Britain, would help to maintain good relations with both major British political parties.

I recommend that you approve an office call by Mrs. Thatcher during the period September 17-21, 1975.

APPROVE _____ DISAPPROVE _____

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

VIA LDX
NSC-5081

September 5, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Mr. George S. Springsteen
Executive Secretary
Department of State

SUBJECT: Presidential Meeting with British Party
Leader Thatcher (S/S 7515015)

To confirm our telephone notification, the President has agreed to receive Mrs. Thatcher on Thursday, September 18 at 11 AM. Please confirm acceptance and provide a briefing memorandum by September 12. She should arrive via the Northwest Gate.


Jeanne W. Davis
Staff Secretary

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MEMORANDUM


NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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ACTION
September 16, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

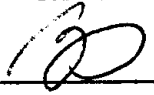
FROM: Mr. Clift 

SUBJECT: Press Guidance for Thatcher Meeting

The guidance at Tab A has been prepared for use by the White House Press Office on September 18 in connection with UK Tory Leader Margaret Thatcher's call on the President.

RECOMMENDATION

That you approve the guidance at Tab A for Margie Vanderhye's further action with Ron Nessen.

APPROVE 

DISAPPROVE _____

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Cliff
9/16/75
M

WHITE HOUSE PRESS GUIDANCE

President's Meeting with Mrs. Margaret Thatcher
September 18, 1975

The President met this morning with Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, presently Leader of the Opposition in the U. K. House of Commons.

Mrs. Thatcher is in the United States in her capacity as Conservative Party leader and will be meeting with senior U. S. officials and several Congressional Committees during her visit. The President wished to take this occasion to invite Mrs. Thatcher to the White House to become acquainted and to have an exchange of views on international issues of interest to the United States and Great Britain.

* * * * *

Q: Isn't it rather strange for the President to meet with the Leader of the Opposition?

A: To the contrary, there is considerable precedent for the meeting. It is fully in keeping with previous calls at the White House by Leaders of the Opposition in Britain -- most recently by Edward Heath, Mrs. Thatcher's predecessor, last September and Mr. Wilson when Labor was in Opposition.

Q: Who else is Mrs. Thatcher meeting with while she is here?

A: I do not have her detailed schedule but I believe she is meeting with Secretaries Kissinger, Simon and Schlesinger and also with the Senate

Foreign Relations Committee and the House International Relations Committee. The British Embassy should be able to give you additional details.

Q: Is Mrs. Thatcher visiting other American cities?

A: I believe she has visited New York and, of course, now has this round of meetings in Washington. I don't have the remainder of her itinerary.

Q: When did Mrs. Thatcher replace Heath as Leader of the Opposition?

A: In February, 1975.

Q: Can you tell us something about this morning's meeting?

A: The meeting was cordial and informal in tone. There was no set agenda. The President and Mrs. Thatcher discussed matters relating to the Atlantic Alliance, the Middle East and international economic and energy developments.

Q: Has the President any plans to meet again with Prime Minister Wilson in the near future.

A: I have no meeting to announce at present. The President has met with the Prime Minister four times this year, including an official visit by Mr. Wilson in January and, most recently, a meeting in Helsinki. While the President and the Prime Minister remain in close touch, another meeting is not set at this time.

OP. for Mtg w/ Mrs. Margaret
Batches, Leader, British Conservative
Party - Sept 17-21 - 8/20/70

30 min. SCHEDULING ROUTING MEMO

Subject: Office appt Originator: HAK

To Individual _____ Processed _____ Comments _____
1 W. Nicholson 8/20

_____ W. Rustand _____

_____ Staff to: _____

_____ _____

2 H. Donaldson _____ Propose Sept 20th

_____ M. Widner _____

_____ M. Rawlins _____

_____ N. Gemmell _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

Return to: _____

Action: Should get an early
sign off

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MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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SECRET

September 17, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR JON HOWE

FROM: *for* Jeanne W. Davis *JWT*

SUBJECT: Dinner for Mrs. Margaret Thatcher

The Vice President has accepted an invitation from British Ambassador Sir Peter Ramsbotham to attend a dinner in honor of Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons, on September 18. We are advised that the dinner will begin at 8:00 p.m. with cocktails in the Embassy residence living room, followed by dinner at about 8:30 p.m. Ambassador Ramsbotham will begin the toasts after the dessert course and his brief remarks are expected to focus on Mrs. Thatcher's career and background. After the Vice President's toast, Mrs. Thatcher is expected to speak briefly. As the ranking American guest, the Vice President may wish to lead the exit around 11:00 p.m.

At Tab I is background information for the Vice President on the current internal political situation in Great Britain, Mrs. Thatcher's achievements since becoming Conservative Party leader, Tory foreign policy, and Tory views on Britain's current economic situation. (A biographic sketch of Mrs. Thatcher is at Tab A.)

A proposed toast for the Vice President's use at the dinner is at Tab II. Additional materials provided by the Department of State are at Tab III.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4 (b)

White House Guide Lines, Feb. 24, 1983

J NARS, Date 11/16/84

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PROPOSED REPLY TOAST

Mr. Ambassador, Mrs. Thatcher, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a great pleasure to be here this evening. I feel particularly fortunate to enjoy your gracious British hospitality for the second time this week. The trip home tonight, however, should be much shorter than on Monday.

I was honored to head the delegation of American citizens to Great Britain earlier in the week to present the "World of Franklin and Jefferson", the centerpiece of our Bicentennial celebration overseas. That exhibition, and our Bicentennial itself, underscore the great common heritage of Britain and the United States -- a living, shared faith in freedom and the rights of man that has formed the basis of our unshakeable friendship and close cooperation in war and peace.

Mrs. Thatcher's visit to the United States and the presence here tonight of our Democratic colleagues vividly illustrate the strong bipartisan support in both Britain and America for continuing and building on that partnership. Our two countries are working together with our other friends and allies to meet the difficult challenges that the world faces today -- the effort to create a sound structure of peace, to deal with the economic and financial difficulties which confront the industrialized world, and to try to improve our ties with the developing nations of the globe. Only through close cooperation can we meet these challenges.

In such a time of testing, Conservatives in Britain have turned to a talented woman to head their party -- as have both Republicans and Democrats here in recent years. Mrs. Thatcher, the Tories are fortunate to have you as their representative and leader. Your visit is giving us the opportunity to learn, as your Conservative colleagues have learned, of your ability, determination and stamina. We welcome you on your first visit as party leader; you have our congratulations and best wishes in your position as Leader of the Loyal Opposition.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Queen.